

# Grease Paint

June 2019



## Clown Class Graduation

With the publishing of this June issue the clown class will be well planned and under way. A standing ovation needs to go out to all those who helped with the class. Another round of applause needs to go out to Jane Foust. She took over the class this year and did a fantastic job with it.

Our next challenge is to welcome those students who come to our meeting. Basic clowning education has taken place and now the new clowns are hungry for more. They will want more experience/teaching in areas they are interested in. As a troupe we also need to get them involved with our community exposures.

Parades are a great place for new clowns to get started. The parade keeps moving and they share small windows of people to connect with as they move along. Walk-arounds are another good place to start. All they need to do is mingle and connect with smaller groups or individuals.

We just need to remember that the new clowns cannot be left alone. A troupe member needs to be near by to step in if they have trouble. An example would be a new clown doing balloons that gets crowded with kids.

The troupe member needs to step in and help with the balloons or find a way to move the new clown. Perhaps you can mention someone that is asking for them. Then move the new clown away from the trapped area.

We want our new members to start clowning. But we do

### Combine Sponge Magic:

You do not have to do only 1 trick. You can blend different sponge tricks.

### Microsoft IP Phone Scam:

Another phone scam that is going on. Do not fall for this.

Kids Correct You: Fun you can have when you get things wrong and the kids help you .

Makeup Application: An article discussing tools used to apply your makeup.

Just Clown: Do not make it complicated. Just makeup and get out there to clown.

Brush Up on Safety: There are a lot of safety messages we can share as clowns.

Back Stage Magic: Finally set to open early in June.

What do I know? Many of our members have experience that can be shared.

A Couple Bonus Skits: Hurts Donut and the News Flash skits are here for you to consider.

not want them to get discouraged, or frustrated being stuck with no help close by.

## ***Microsoft IP License Phone Scam***

Here is the latest phone scam that is circulating. If you receive a call like this, the first thing that will surprise you is your cell phone will show the call is coming from your own phone number. May call identified the call coming from my last name. Here is the script that call gave to me:

The robo voice said it was Microsoft, that my Windows license key was going to be de activated because my IP address had been compromised from several different countries and they needed to set up a new IP address for me.

For people who are not aware this call can be very scary. It is an attempt to gain access to your computer. Hang up. DO NOT respond to this call. Two things identify this as a scam call. If you are computer wise you know that the IP address, your specific computer identification, is generated by your computer or router. The only address going out to the public is the address of the router. Your computer IP is not being distributed.

The second problem is that Microsoft never calls you. Or, if they ever do they never use robo calls. Often the call warns you your license will be suspended within 48 hours if you do not take action. This is only another comment to scar you into action. The only action to take is to hang up. DO NOT press any numbers to be connected to a technician.

Another scam that is circulating comes to your computer. You get a splash screen that takes over saying you have a virus. It also suggests you follow links, or a phone call to scammers pretending to be Microsoft that want to get access to your computer information. So with all these scams, how do you protect yourself?

If you suspect they are real then contact Microsoft yourself. Access [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com), or call using the "help" sections of your Microsoft software. Many times, you can learn of them just by reading alerts posted on their website.

In the case of the virus interruption as you are working on the Internet, there is a file that came onto your computer that is prompting it. A call with a knowledgeable technician will help you identify and delete the file. Microsoft and others are working to find the scammers distributing the cell calls. Until they are found, your best action is to just hang up.

## *Kids Correct You*

Working an Easter egg hunt brought back a few memories. I had a sponge frog that I palmed. When I spoke with little children, I mentioned we were here to hunt for the Easter frog's eggs. As you might suspect it didn't take very long for the child to correct me. If the child didn't respond quickly the parent spoke up. "Not the frog. The Easter Bunny."

I remember some walk-arounds where I confused colors. I pulled out a red silk calling it green. I also pointed to something blue calling it yellow. Kids were the first to correct me. And, some would stay close as I continued my walk-around and check to make sure I remembered which each color was.

There were also times when I said I was confused and asked if a certain color was red or not. The kids always responded either correcting me or telling me I was right. They even are willing to help you count. If you skip the number three as you are counting, they will correct you.

When I am doing my magic show I announce I will produce a rabbit out of a bag. But when I waver my wand over it, out comes a skunk. I have a few jokes and things I do with the skunk before it goes back in the bag. I then point out that I used the wrong side of the magic wand. I let them know the wand has a front and back side. I turn the wand over and repeat the waving. That is when the bunny rabbit silk appears. At that point I have planted the seed.

A couple times in my show I use the wrong end and have to repeat myself. There have been times when an audience member has yelled "use the right end" as I was working the routine. I have even paused a couple times as if I was thinking of the correct end of my wand to use.

You can also mix up nursery rhymes. I remember a walk-around where I pointed to a Jack and Jill picture on the wall. I told another clown that I remembered that story. It is the one where Jack's pig built the brick house that Mary's lamb used to visit. The other clown played along. It didn't take very long for the kids near us to straighten us out.

I recently watched a stage show where the routine came to a large version of the game Simon. Simon is a game with four colors. The game plays a sequence and the player must match it. The longer the game goes on the more complex and longer the sequences become. It only took two turns for the audience to catch on.

The next individual started to play. The system played a green, red and blue light. The player, acting kind of confused, slowly pressed the green then the red. The last light he held his hand over the red one and the entire audience yelled "no". Slapping his own hand, he pulled it away. When he held his hand over the blue one, they yelled "yes".



## *Just Clown*

There are two postures for clowning. The second, and less considered is competition. Many compete in makeup, costume, skits, face painting and balloon competitions. In those postures preparation is everything. Their performance, appearance or display is everything. They can be extremely serious about their competitions.

The first posture, and most popular, is a clown that entertains the public. Time is taken for preparation. But we know that each line will not be measured, blending studied and every phase of our makeup under a microscope. Our costume does not have to be expensive. And, we do not take as much time as those seriously competing.

As clowns we recognize that we need makeup a costume and perhaps a prop or two. But we know that the most important aspect of our clowning is the audience. We walk-around sharing stories, playing with puppets and just mingling with people. We talk about things as we make a balloon animal for a child. We talk about characters or images that are being painted. Or we do a skit and watch the people laugh.

We do not need to make clowning complicated or technical. All we have to do is make it fun. Clowns have been known to walk into senior care facilities with very few props and make the residents smile and laugh. I know of a few clowns that only carry one or two items with them. They clown all day and the audience is just as entertained as if a magician did fifteen magic tricks.

Often, when we first get started we spend way too much time being critical of ourselves. It has been many years ago, but one friend never got out to clown. She felt her makeup was not good enough. It didn't matter how much coaxing was done, she never performed. That is a shame. It is almost like buying a new vehicle, having someone park it in your garage and never driving it.

Don't make it hard or complex. You learned how to apply makeup. You can always make changes later. No one keeps the same face they started with. We all make changes and adjustments. The same holds true with the costume. We start with one and then move into other outfits. The first clown you create will evolve with experience.

The most important action is to clown up and go entertain. If you are afraid or concerned then ask another troupe member to come along with you. Time to get ready and then get in the game. The audience, be it s small party, parade, walk-around or skits, is waiting. Smiles and laughter are just around the corner. You just have to park the car, get out and start clowning.

## ***Brush Up on Safety***

Everyone shares the responsibility of safety. As clowns we have an opportunity to reinforce some of those values. As an example, when Topper notices a child hiding behind mom's leg or reaching up to be picked up by dad he takes advantage of it. It is obvious that the child is afraid. So, from a distance, Topper says: "That's ok. You need to be aware of strangers. That will help keep you safe as you grow up."

If you notice a child near flame or something you can refresh their fire safety. While clowning at a picnic Topper pointed at the grill telling the kids it was very hot. If people are not careful there could be a fire. Then he looked confused, scratched his head and ask the kids what "stop, drop and roll" was. All four kids took the time to teach Topper about them.

Topper overheard a lady talking about bullying. When the conversation came to an end, he mentioned someone looking for a lost dog. The lady asked and Topper went into another safety message. He said the other day a man was walking near the park showing a picture of a small puppy. He was telling kids he lost his dog and wanted them to come help him look for it. The lady asked what he did. Topper then said many things could be done.

He said that an adult could be asked to come along and help. Or, he could offer to find a cell phone and dial 911. One of the children said to run away. The lady helped share the safety message. In our area there have been reports of cars driving by the parks. When the police are notified the cars disappear.

If you need help the library has safety materials you can read. You can speak with some community organizations. The fire and police departments have safety materials you can pick up. And, don't forget to identify some emergency situations around the house. Children need to know of 911. They should be taught what information they need to share and that they need to follow the dispatchers instructions as they wait for help.

As clowns we have children's attention. There is nothing wrong with using some of that attention time to pass along safety. As you do, keep an eye on the parents. You can see the "thank you" in their eyes. They appreciate your help sharing safety information with their children. On one occasion I had shared some safety information at a county fair. A little girl came up to me and said she lost her mom. I had shared safety information before. She trusted me.

I took her hand and we walked together through the craft fair area. I kept yelling MOM. People turned and looked. They smiled. One called over to a lady and pointed to me. It was her mom. Both were glad to see each other. Mom tried to pass me a dollar as thank you. But I told her to put it in her daughters piggy bank.



*BACK STAGE MAGIC*

## *Opening in June* *mybackstagemagic.com*

After a record breaking amount of time spent on research and programming the online store is set to open this June. Originally planned as an E-commerce store the site was drastically downsized. The store was to contain a massive inventory of magic available for credit card purchase. However, the security involved with protecting customers information, the advanced programming to constantly update the catalogues and other elements drove the price of opening well over \$2,000.

You can probably imagine what that would do to resale pricing. No one absorbs those costs. They are passed along to the customer over a period of time. The second problem is that two or three online companies already have over 80% of the market. The money needed to try to attract their customers through marketing/advertising would only drive the total opening costs further.

The result is a training based, educational support site. Brian will publish his books on the site as well as post his magic monthly newsletter: Abraca-Poof. There will be a specials section where he will sell overstock inventory or special priced inventory. He will also include a detailed services area for coaching, mentoring etc.

All purchases will take place through email. Customers submit their orders by email. Billing is done through PayPal and Back Stage Magic does not have to retain or be responsible for the security of the customers credit card information. Back Stage Magic will retain the customers contact information (name, email, address, and phone). The customers information will be stored on external protected media.

Thanks to everyone who has been following and asking about the website. It was a very long time in research. The target opening date is June 10th. But there is a very strong chance the store will be open before then. The address is: [mybackstagemagic.com](http://mybackstagemagic.com).

If you have any questions feel free to email Brian at: [bsmagic@gmail.com](mailto:bsmagic@gmail.com)

## *What do I Know?*

One should never discredit themselves. You may have heard comments such as: I'm not good enough, what could I possibly write about, who really cares about my suggestions. But that is not the case. Everyone has experience, ideas and creativity. Some have more than others but all clowns have some things they can share.

Grease Paint is written by one person. But the last page of every issue welcomes readers to share their articles. This is not a challenge or competition. Grease Paint is a newsletter we use to share information. Not sure what you could write about? Consider these questions:

Why do you pass out stickers?

What got you started with face painting?

What is your favorite activity and why? (Walk-around, skits, parades, etc.)

What do you like most about clowns you work with?

Your article does not have to be professionally written or lengthy. Brian offers ghost writing services and will help you with your article if needed. We need to make Grease Paint a newsletter where other members contribute as well. It does not have to be written by only one person.

Once drafted for publication, you will have the final authority to publish. If you like the finished article then release it. If you do not like the article then do not authorize release and it will not be published. The article can continue being edited until you are happy with it. Just because you send in something that does not translate into automatic publication. We work as a team to insure the finished article that is published is one you are happy with.

Submit your drafts, and articles to [topperhtc@yahoo.com](mailto:topperhtc@yahoo.com). When the article is set up it will be emailed back to you asking for a publication release. Or, you are welcome to submit the release at the same time you email your article. It still will not be published without your final approval.

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## ***Hurts Donut Skit***

Set-Up: Two clowns perform this skit. One clown is looking through a brochure or flyer and points out that donuts are two for fifty cents. That opens the following conversation:

1st Clown: Look, donuts are two for only fifty cents.

2nd Clown: I didn't know you liked donuts.

1st Clown: I love them. I would really, really love to have a hurts donut right now.

2nd Clown: Punches the 1st clown on the arm.

1st Clown: Rubs arm and asks what that was for.

2nd Clown: Replies: Hurts don't it. And walks off.

Short skit can be done on stage or as a walk-around. When the 2nd clown punches the first it should be open handed so that people watching can hear it.

## ***News Flash***

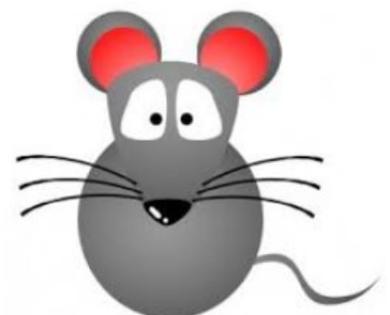
Can be done walking on stage and interrupting the narrator, or during a walk-around.

Clown catches everyone's attention telling them he has an important "News Flash". When he begins he might even sing: da ta da dah.....

Hickory dickery dock. Two mice ran up the clock (as saying this make a gesture of mice running up the side of a clock.)

The clock struck one (pretend to be pounding a mouse on the head with your fist.)

Point to the ground as if the mouse is running away and say: the other escaped with minor injuries.





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